

Differential tuition debate at UBC

Alex Dimson

The Ubyssy

VANCOUVER (CUP) – The University of British Columbia's board of governors has once again delayed acceptance of a contentious plan that could see students from different faculties paying different tuition.

The decision to postpone the final revision of its tuition policy, was reached at a meeting last week.

The plan, which outlines how UBC would deal with financial aid and tuition for international students, would also introduce differential tuition — fees will depend on the per student cost of administering a program.

According to student representative Tieg Martin, board members were concerned by the lack of specific figures in the plan, and have asked university administrators to present more details no later than March 2001.

The proposed policy does not address whether the tuition would be faculty-based or course-based and does not specify the exact proportion of program costs that students would be paying.

"It's been tabled until March, when more detailed cost modeling will be available to satisfy board members concerns," he said. "But the concept of basing tuition, at least loosely, on the cost of instruction, has been endorsed."

Maryann Adamec, president of the Alma Mater Society (AMS), which is opposed to cost-based tuition, said she is happy the policy has been delayed.

"I think the campus community and the students need more time to digest the actual workings of the policy and what the policy is going to mean," she said.

But Brian Sullivan, UBC's vice-president of students, said that the tuition policy is not intended to be specific.

"It's a policy, it's not supposed to be an operational framework," he said, adding that specifics should be decided upon as circumstances arise. "Keeping a policy general is the smart way to do it."

Roger Miller, president of the Graduate Student Society (GSS), said UBC would have a difficult time assessing graduate programs based on cost.

He notes that since graduate students do much of the teaching and research at UBC, it is unfair to the university to ask them to pay for the full price of their program.

Sullivan said that the current tuition system is also "very differentiated." There is a discrepancy, he said, between the cost of administering a given program and the portion of this cost covered by student tuition. Undergraduate students currently pay between 13 and 39 per cent of the cost of administering a program.

The B.C. government indicated earlier this year that UBC's differential tuition policy cannot be implemented until the current province-wide freeze on tuition is lifted, which could occur after the provincial election expected next spring.

Martin said that the delay in the policy could alleviate uncertainty about the renewal of the tuition freeze policy.

"Survivor" for Credit

Jon Dunbar

The Gateway

EDMONTON (CUP) – A University of Alberta professor plans to make a re-enactment of the television game show Survivor an optional part of his philosophy course.

Professor Oliver Schulte said students in Philosophy 325: Risk, Choice, and Rationality can play Survivor and get graded on their ability to stay in the game.

Schulte revealed his plan at a recent discussion about the television show at a philosopher's gathering entitled "The philosophy of Survivor: a look at self-interest and morality."

"People didn't watch Survivor the same way the watch the Olympics," Schulte said. "Our fascination with it is wondering about ourselves."

He asked attendees to consider three questions: What's so bad about Richard? Which islander did they think they would have been most like? Who on the island had the best strategy?

According to Schulte, viewers had no problem concluding that Richard was a "bad scheming person, [and that] Richard was phenomenally unpopular."

He contrasted Richard with the seemingly virtuous Gretchen and Greg.

"Gretchen could not detach herself emotionally like Richard could," Schulte said. "Virtues are their own reward, but nice guys finish last."

Schulte said that he is still in the process of gaining approval from the university to run the activity, which he said would take place over the Internet out of necessity.

Paul Fussell delivers Bronfman lecture Noted war literature professor speaks

Bob Lockhart

The Brunswickan

ANTIGONISH, N.S.—On the campus of St. Francis Xavier University, awash in Homecoming Week alumni last Friday, Professor Paul Fussell, curmudgeon emeritus of academic America and a former infantry platoon leader, captured another audience with his literary legerdemain. As this year's Bronfman Family Lecturer, Fussell gave the standing-room-only audience of more than 300 a polished presentation on the First World War and Cultural Modernism—and they loved it.

Fussell drew heavily on Ezra Pound, Wyndham Lewis, and James Joyce in illustrating the adversarial and provocative rejection of Victorianism that resulted in the worlds of architecture, music, drama, literature—and war. He even managed to infer that the roots of modernism, widely conceded to be a 20th century movement, could be traced back to Walt Whitman's radical poetic masterpiece, "Leaves of Grass." And mindful of his Canadian audience, Fussell quoted extensively from Toronto author Modris Ekstein's well-received *Rites of Spring: the Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age*.

Citing the traditional view that war was an important cause of modernism, Fussell offered a more middle-of-the-road alternative: "it is possible to see war—and the Great War in particular—as just another expression of modernism." But in

surveying the radical tactics of modernism, Fussell discerned common ground between combat troops and artists: "It is hard not to see the frontline troops as a literal *avant garde* analogous to the artistic combatants of postwar writing, art, and music."

In rejecting Victorian jingoism who was the enemy? Decorated veteran Fussell was blunt: it was the the home front. "The troops, the artists, and the critics designated the rear as the enemy. The rear with its perceived insensitivity and unearned privilege. It was the soldiers who

first sensed the Great War's consummate absurdity, one of the elements of the fully developed modernism in general."

Yet the foot-shuffling, chair-scrapping, and indifferent coughing that is common counterpoint to most guest speakers' oratory faded away as Fussell concluded with a reading from D.H. Lawrence. His academic objectivity strained and his voice rising with ill-concealed outrage, Fussell quoted from Lawrence's novel, *Kangaroo*, "In England during the later years of the [Great] war, the criminal spirit arose in all the stay-at-home bullies... and the torture they applied to break the spirit of those who did not hunt with the criminal mob."

Paul Fussell, "America's omni-pundit," concluded the evening in Immaculata Hall with some spirited conversation in the foyer and glasses of chilled Nova Scotian wines from the Jost winery put the finish to St. FX hospitality.

"It was the soldiers who first sensed the Great War's consummate absurdity, one of the elements of the fully developed modernism in general."



Bob Lockhart Photo / The Brunswickan

Professor Paul Fussell takes a break at St. FX.

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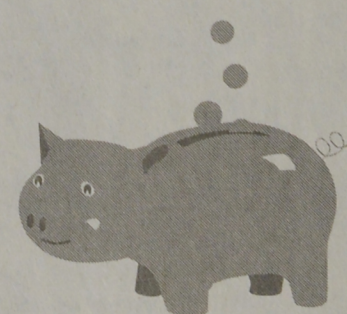
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